

Claims:

1. A method for delivering a therapeutic agent to a predetermined location in a host comprising:

providing a therapeutic agent encapsulated in a liposome to a host in need of said agent;

establishing an electrical field which encompasses a predetermined region within said host;

exposing said liposome-encapsulated agent to said electrical field for a time and under conditions sufficient to enhance the release of said agent from said liposome in said predetermined region when compared to the release from liposomes in areas not exposed to said electrical field.

2. A method for pretreating a predetermined location within a host, prior to the application of electroporation-induced drug delivery comprising establishing an electrical field which encompasses a predetermined region within said host; and exposing said predetermined region to said electrical field for a time and under conditions sufficient to increase the permeability of cell membranes located within said predetermined region when compared to cell membranes in areas not exposed to said electrical field.

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4. A method for decreasing the effect of electroporation pulses on body tissues located outside of a predetermined location in a host comprising:

5       cooling the tissue of the host to a degree  
sufficient to reduce the effect of electroporation  
pulses prior to establishing an electrical field  
which encompasses a predetermined region within said  
host; and

10       exposing said predetermined region to said  
electrical field for a time and under conditions  
sufficient to effect treatment to said predetermined  
region.

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5. A method for delivering a therapeutic agent to a predetermined location in a host comprising:

providing a therapeutic agent encapsulated in a surface-charged liposome to a host in need of said agent;

establishing an electrical field which encompasses a predetermined region within said host;

exposing said liposome-encapsulated agent to said electrical field for a time and under conditions sufficient to enhance either the migration of said liposomes to said predetermined region or the adsorption of said liposomes to cell membranes located within said region; and

exposing said liposome-encapsulated agent to said electrical field for a time and under conditions sufficient to enhance the release of said agent from said liposome in said predetermined region when compared to the release from liposomes in areas not exposed to said electrical field.

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